

THE  
Present State  
OF  
ENGLAND.  
A  
VISION.

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*Nescio qua Natale solum dulcedine cunctos  
Movit ——— Ovid.*

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Present State

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ENGLAND, &c.

**I**T being my misfortune to be taken Prisoner by the *French*, in an *English* Vessel bound for *Leghorn*, we were carried into *Thoulon*, and disposed of into several Prisons : The Character I bore on Board having oblig'd my new Masters to Treat me with more Civility than the rest of the Ships Crew, I was Lodged in a very convenient Apartment ; but by what name or title so ever dignified or distinguished, a Prison is a Prison, tho Built of Marble, and hung with Tapestry : Walking one day very Pensive in my Chamber, my Jayler, or rather Landlord, gave me a Visit, and brought with him the never failing Remedy against Care and Sorrow, a Bottle of rich old *Burgundy*, with which he came purposely to Treat me ; I return'd him

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my humble Thanks for his extraordinary Civility, and Drank a Bumper or two very Liberally ; when my friendly Visitor, according to the Natural openness of the *French* Nation, discovered his Mind very freely to me, lamenting the unhappy Difference between the two Crowns of *England* and *France*, condoling my misfortunes in particular ; withal he exprest himself very feelingly upon the Miseries of his own Country ; but to do him Justice, never mentioned his *Great Master* but with the highest Respect and Reverence ; we were about the midst of Conference, as we could guess by our Hour-glass, the Bottle, when some suddain occasion calling him away, left me to my former Solitude ; my Thoughts, notwithstanding the Refreshments of Wine, were very Troublesome to me, and therefore, to Charm their Uneasiness, I laid me down upon a Couch, where long I had not been, before I fell into a gentle Slumber ; in which soft amusement of Life (if Sleeping may be call'd so) I was presented with this Visionary Interlude.

Methought I was walking upon one of the most Delicious Plains in the World, and by the Language of the Shepherds keeping their Flocks there, I knew it was in *England*, and by one or two very convincing circumstances more, was certain 'twas in *Wiltshire* ; the Pleasure I imagined by my supposed sudden Change from the Confinements of a Prison, to the open free Air of my Native Country, was inexpressible, the Singing of the Birds, the Bleatings of the Lambs, and the Repetitions of the Eccho, seem'd to bid me my welcome Home ; but I was soon interrupted from these pleasant Thoughts by the sounds I heard at some small distance



distance, crying, *They are Coming, They are Coming, Flee, Run, Scamper, make Hast.* I must own I was not very much surpriz'd (for most men have Courage in a Dream) when presently in a few Minutes afterward there ran by me some hundreds, I may say thousands, of Soldiers, both Horse and Foot, with the greatest precipitancy possible, throwing away their Head-pieces, Back and Breast-pieces, Arms, Boots, nay, and leaping from their very Horses to hasten their Flight, and happy was he who had the Nimblest pair of Heels; the sight was something odd, since I could not perceive any Army following them, or conceive what should be the occasion of this sudden Disorder; I would have askt the Reason of several, but none had the Leisure to give me an Answer; every one being in as much hast as if he were going with an Express: The Reer of this Flying Camp was brought up by a person of Prodigious Magnitude, his Eyes flaming with Vexation, his Right Hand held a Sword, and his Left a bundle of Surrendred Charters; upon his Breast was Wrote in very legible Characters, *Sic Volo sic Jubeo.* Upon view of which, any one, without the assistance of Conjurat-ion, might know it to be *Arbitrary Power*: As he came by me, he made a stop, as it were, to take a little breath, which having obtain'd, rolling his Eye-balls, which were red hot with Indignation, and stamping thrice upon the Ground, utter'd these hasty periods. Oh! ye Scoundrels, Slaves, Villains, what d'ye Fly? D'ye run when there is most occasion for you? Insufferable Cowards, d'ye turn your backs upou a handful of Men? Do the rough Beards of the *Switzers*, or the large Whiskers of the *Brandenburgers* affright you? Ye half Animated wretches, the Enemies you flee from

are neither *Laplanders* nor *Finlanders*, neither came they from *Iceland*, nor the Territories of the *North Pole*; they are only a few poor Spirited *Dutchmen*, things Generated like Frogs out of Slime and Mud of their own Country, and shall they put you into such a Consternation? Is there no hopes ye will Rally again, and bravely defie the Foe? No, No, I see ye are all Heartless and Dispirited; see how they Run over yonder Hill, as if ten thousand Devils with red hot Pitchforks were driving them; Oh! Milkops, shadows of Men, and less Spirited than Women; could my Curses further your Flight, you should not stop till ye came to the Banks of the Sea, and may that immense Gulph Swallow you all, for a Crew of despicable Wretches, who forsook the best Cause, and in the critical Minute too, when the Success of one half Hours Valour would have Intituled you to Eternal Honour, as ye now are the Meirs of everlasting Disgrace and Infamy.

Here he paus'd a while to recover the Breath he had lost in the Excess of his Anger, but still keeping his Station, continued his Harangue, tho in more mild and gentle Terms; for after several Sighs, which for Number and Quality were certainly not Counterfeit. He proceeds in his Complaints in these following words: And are all my deep-laid Designs, my closely contriv'd Policies come to this? Is the Work and Contrivance of so many Years now ruin'd on the sudden? Has it not been my Study this many Years, even from the Dawning of the accursed Reformation, to subject these Three Stubborn Realms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, and bring them to an absolute Dependance to my uncontroulable Will? And am I at last disappointed? How successfully

cessfully did the Plots and Counter-plots of the late Reigns carry on my Cause? People of all Qualities and Conditions, from the Prince to the Plowman, I corrupted with Luxury and Ease; that their Minds being lull'd asleep with the Charms of Pleasure, might have no leisure to think of any future Unhappiness in prospect; by which means their Necks would be the better prepared to bear my Yoak. But when a Prince ascended the Throne, whose very Religion teaches him Oppression, and into the very Articles of whose Faith my Maxims are interwoven, when he wielded the Scepter, I doubted not but to have obtain'd my Desire: 'Twas I who taught him to value his Coronation Oath no more than a Complement, or Words of Course, which every Man must say who intends to wear a Crown: I told him how to manage the plodding, contriving Heads of the *English* to his own advantage; to create such Persons Judges and Counsellors, as would interpret the Law to any sense the Prince was pleas'd to have put upon it: I wheedled the Blockheads in Cities and Corporations to deliver up their Charters and Writings, by which they held their Rights and Priviledges, as firm and certain as their Birth right; I told 'em, Nothing would show their Loyalty, nor express their Breeding better than to part with their Freedom, and make themselves and their Posterity Slaves for ever, by chusing rather to be govern'd by the Absolute Will of a Prince, than the Old Musty Records of *Magna Charta*: I put them upon the Project of Repealing the Penal Laws, which the poor Credulous Wretches thought were only some few harsh Mulcts, which Dissenters as well as Romanists then felt, and were willing to be eas'd of; when as indeed they were the greatest security they had to prevent the Incroachments and intolerable

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"Usurpations (as they are pleas'd to call them) of the Church of *Rome* ; and therefore esteem'd things of Value: I inform'd the Judges, and they immediately the King, That he might dispense with Laws of any sort, if they any ways obstructed his Majesties Pleasure: Nay, I corrupted some of the Clergy to my Party, and no less Person than a Prelate espous'd my Quarrel with his Pen: I wheedled some of the credulous Dissenters, That Liberty of Conscience was given them purely for their own sake, and that the King had no Design in the Matter, but to restore to God the Empire over Conscience, which had been usurped by some Crowned Heads formerly. I told the King, That those of the Church of *England* were not his most Dutiful Subjects; and so put him upon giving them the Choak-Pear of a Declaration, which some of them greedily swallowed, though it workt like *Crocus Metallorum* in their Stomachs; but others, and those of the Highest Form in the Church, for refusing it, I got and procured them Lodgings in the *Tower*: I got the President and Fellows of *Magdalen Colledge* in *Oxford*, to be ejected from their Freeholds by a Pageantry of Law, and placed some of my hopeful Plants in their Room: I procured, that the Chief Posts in the Kingdom, both Civil and Military, should be disposed of to *Roman Catholicks*, Numbers being only wanting to fill up all Vacancies. These, and a Thousand other things I did to ripen my Projects, and bring Matters to Perfection. And when I was just come to the *Top* of my Ambition, and saw every thing about me gay and smiling; when I was just stepping into my Chariot, to drive my triumphant Wheels over the Neck of Liberty and Property; Just when the Plot was ready for Execution, comes the News of the *Dutch Invasion*, of which I made

no more account than if they had been a Fleet of Herring  
 Busses; but the Noise still increasing, I thought 'twas fit  
 to provide for my own Safety; I shifted my Disguise, and  
 told the King (like a true Hypocrite), That my Proceed-  
 ings had been very irregular; perswaded him to restore  
 the Charters, Re-instate the Excluded Fellows, and make  
 the Complexion of the State look charming and delight-  
 ful: But alas! all in vain, the *Fleet* lands, *Declarations*  
 are spread abroad, to amuse the People; the Army  
 advances, the Gentry flock in, and the Nobility too one  
 after another, run over to the Prince. In this Extremi-  
 ty what should I do? Proclamations nor Promises signi-  
 fie nothing; at last I got an Army, to all Appearance,  
 Stout and Valiant; I encouraged them, led them on; but  
 after all the Vilains would not fight--but fly like Sheep  
 before a Wolf. The P's Army is advancing; whither  
 then shall I fly for safety? Or to what Hospitable Coast  
 shall I go for shelter?---I see you, I see you, Oh ye  
 Lovely Shores of *France*; *France*, the Darling of my  
 Soul; There I have a King indeed, who has followed my  
 Maxims with success; to him therefore will I run: But  
 before I leave this stubborn Island, which I have so long  
 strove to enslave, I will give it (since I can do nothing  
 else) my heartiest Curses: May all the Plagues which e-  
 ver Angry Heaven sent down upon a Nation, light upon  
 it; May the *Pestilence* infect the Air, beyond that of  
*Alexandria*; May there perish Thousands in a Morning,  
 and Ten Thousands in an Afternoon; May the Winters  
 cold, nip all the growing Product of its Earth; and what  
 is left, may the Summer's Heat parch up, and dry to Ash-  
 es: May growing Factions and Divisions so distract the  
 Minds of the People, that they may never be easie under  
 any Government: May the Publick Safety be continual-  
 ly,

By shaken by Popular Tumults and Insurrections; May there be no Order nor Harmony in their Councils; but after a thousand ways to settle the Government, may they all run into a wild Anarchy, and each Man cut his Fellows Throat, to keep his Hand in Action: May their Trade decrease, as their Miseries augment, while their Neighbours round 'em hiss them to scorn, and they become a Proverb and By Word to all Nations.

At speaking this the *Apparition* (for sure it was no other) vanished in a Cloud of Smoak, which had no very pleasing savour. I was some time before I could bring my Thoughts to their right Temper, being fixt upon what I had heard and seen: But as I was making serious Reflections within my self, I heard at some distance the discharging of Canon, the Ringing of Bells, and very loud Acclamations. Wondring at this sudden Noise, Two or Three Peasants ran by me, of whom I desir'd to know the Occasion; but they return'd me no other Answer, but *God bless King William and Queen Mary*. I quickly guess their Meaning, and willing to participate of the publiick Joy, went with some of them to an adjacent Cottage, to which *Luxury* and *Pride* had ever been Strangers. Our Entertainment was plain and simple, like the Minds of them who prepared it, and the Jolly Brown Bowl walkt merrily about the Table; the Cloath withdrawn, a Health or Two went round; and then a Cessation from Drinking was desired, in order to occasion Discourse; which, as Customary at such kind of Meetings, was chiefly about the Times; of Foreign Matters they discoursed nothing, it being above their Capacities; and they were not Book-learned enough to understand the meaning of *Jawarrow*, *Lubowinski*, the *Mosea*, the *Seresquier*, the *Plenepotentiaries*, and *Ditto*, Words which  
fre-



frequently occur in the *Gazette*; but confin'd their Discourse to the Bounds and Limits of their own Countrey, and said a great many sensible things upon the Occasion: *They say* (says one of them) *my Lord Chancellor is dead: Well; Heaven rest his Soul: But had not my Religion taught me to forgive my Enemies, I should have had another kind of Prayer for him; for he hang'd a Con- ple of as hopeful Nephews of mine, at Taunton, as ever drew on Shooe of Leather.* The mentioning his Name put them all in a Passion, and they were about to execute him in *Effigie*; but his prudent Moderation soon appeas'd the Storm. Then they fell to discourse of the Excellency of the Government they liv'd under, which they were sure was mild enough: They spoke very honourably of the King and Queen; and when any thing occasionally happened in Discourse of the Unhappiness of the late Reign, they either wholly declin'd it, as a Subject did not please them, or spoke of it with such indifference, as if they car'd not much for it. One of them (a parlous Countrey-fellow) had been a Traveller in his Youthful Days, and gave the Company very diverting Stories of what he had seen abroad: But when he came to put the Happiness of his own Countrey into the Scale, with that pretended to be enjoy'd in Foreign Parts, he express'd himself with that Warmth of Expression, and just proportion of Thought, which one could have hardly expected from one of his Appearance, and with lift up Hands and Eyes, wondered at the unreasonable Complaints of our Murmurers: He had seen the *Taxes* in *Holland*, the ways of raising Money in *France*, and the *Gabells* of *Italy*, to which the *Taxes* of *England* were but as a Flea-bite; whereas the other tore off the Skin.

The Company listned to him with a profound Attention; and indeed his Discourse deserv'd nothing less. Nay, he had one Scrap of *Latin*, which he used very frequently, which I remember was, *Salus Populi Suprema Lex est*; and though he understood not the meaning of *Stocracy* and *Mocracy*, yet he could tell whether the Government were good or bad, by the sensible Effects his little Fortune found under it, and where he was assest a Shilling, he could as willingly have paid a Pound, were his Fortunes proportionable, and lest the Distinctions of *de jure* and *de facto*, to those Metaphysical Heads, who care for such Nicities; for when he found himself easie under a Government, he thought it Nonsense to Question the Legality of it, though he was well assur'd in his Mind of the Lawfulness of submitting to this, which, to use his own Expression, seem'd to be introduced by a Miracle of Mercies-----His grateful Temper I very much approv'd of, and thought I saw through the whole Company a Chearfulness of Temper, which was not every where to be met with. I reflected then upon the Happiness of these people, who enjoying every thing necessary, and nothing superfluous, their Minds not disordered by partiality or prejudice, nor nicely entangled about the Lawfulness or Unlawfulness of any Form of Government, live quietly, peaceably and contentedly under it. So having return'd them my humble Thanks for their Civility, and good Company, I left them, to prosecute my intended Journey.

Having nothing but my own Thoughts to keep me Company, I began to reflect on the Happiness of the Constitution of the *English Government*, in which Dominion



minion and Liberty are reconcil'd ; it giving to the Prince the Glorious Power of Commanding Freemen, and to the Subject the Satisfaction of seeing the Power so lodged, as that their Liberties are secure : It doth not allow the Crown such a Ruining Power, as that no Grass may grow where'ere it treads ; but a cherishing and protecting Power, such a one as hath a grim Aspect, only to the offending Subjects ; but is the Joy and Pride of all the good ones, their own Interest being so bound up in it, as to engage 'em to defend and support it ; and the King is in some Circumstances restrain'd, so as nothing in the Government can move without him, our Laws making a true Distinction between Vassallage and Obedience, between devouring Prerogative, and a licentious ungovernable Freedom.

But while I was diverting my self with these Thoughts and Reflections, the Heavens over my Head grew black and lowering, the Wind blowing most tempestuously, with other Prognosticks of a Storm, which occasion'd my more than ordinary haste to get to the next convenient shelter, which before I could reach, I was soundly wet to the Skin : It happened to be a Gentleman's House, who gave me that welcome Entertainment ; And after I had dried and refresh'd my self, I was usher'd very civilly into the Parlour, in which was late about Fourteen or Fifteen Gentlemen, with Five or Six Clergymen, their Countenances appearing dark and cloudy, like the Weather. I soon perceiv'd by their silence for some time, that my arrival (being a Stranger) had quite altered the Frame of their Discourse ; but after some Complements given and receiv'd on both sides, they re-assumed their former Liberty. The chief of their Discourse was News ; and I

assure you, they were very shrewd Politicians ; for they had calculated the Expence of the War Next Year, to the Three Hundred Thirty Eighth part of a Farthing ; They had a Map of *Flanders* before them, and were assigning the *French King* his Conquests next Summer : Nay, they had fixt the precise Minute when the Two Armies should be engag'd. These were thought by me very bold Attempts for private Men ; but what cannot Fancy and Imagination do ? The Half-witted Fellow at *Athens*, who used to sit *laughing* at the *Port*, and see the Rich Vessels sail into Harbour, and fancied them to be all his own, was undoubtedly as happy in his own Conceit, as they who enjoy'd 'em, and were their real Owners. By and by comes in a Messenger with a Pacquet of Letters and Papers from *London*, which was hastily opened, and every one took one, or more, as he pleased : being a Stranger, I durst not presume to meddle with any, but one Gentleman very civilly offered me the *Gazette* to read, which I quickly staged over. Here 'twas a Dumb Scene, and indeed 'twas acted to the Life ; One, in reading of his Paper, would hold up his Hands and Eyes to Heaven with a Transport of Joy ; another in reading, bite his Thumbs in Vexation ; and a Third knock his Fist upon the Table, which whether for Joy or Sorrow I knew not ; Nor could I well apprehend, till afterwards, what was the Meaning of those short, and then unintelligible Expressions they used after they had finisht their Lectures, such as----*Well, Gentlemen, Matters go swimmingly on our side*----*Let 'em quarrel on, 'tis for our advantage*----*This Summer will do the Work*----*Never question it ; the Majority are of our Opinion*----*I would not give any Man Three Farthings to secure it*—— and such like Jargon. This Farce.

Farce being over, the *King's Health* went round, with more than Ordinary Devotion ; after that the *Queen's*, then the *Prince's*. Hitherto Matters were well enough, but when they mentioned the *Queens Hans en Kelder*, I presently smoak't what Company I was got amongst: But I must do them that Justice, they very civilly assur'd me, they would impose no Health upon me ; but I might be free, and at my own disposal, to drink what, and when I pleas'd. I must own, I lik'd the Motion, knowing it is with Healths as *Hudibras* writes of Oaths:

*He that imposes an Oath, makes it ;  
Not he who for Convenience takes it:  
Then how can any Man be said,  
To break an Oath he never made?*

Their Capacities being a little warm'd, they began some other Healths, which by reason of their Ambiguous, or Double Meaning, I declin'd ; such as, *Remembering the Old Fox-hunter*——*To the Gentleman on t'other side o' the Water*——*To all those that dare be honest in the Worst of Times*——*To all our Friends, wherever dispers'd, or however distress'd, upon the Face of the whole Earth*——And many other such Relishes, to make the Glas go glibly down. But one Health I had almost forgot, which was, *The Restoration* ; which was drank with more than ordinary Ceremony upon their Knees, their Heads bare, and concluded with a very loud *Huzza*. I smiled inwardly, to observe what past, and thought they were not very unlike the *Jews*, who expect the Coming of their *Messiah*, but in vain ; But while their Politicks terminate in empty Expectations, let them still enjoy

enjoy the thin Diet of their Wishes, Hope being, according to Mr. Cowley,

*The pleasant honest Flatterer ; for none  
Flatter unhappy Men, but Hope alone.*

These agreeable, or rather disagreeable *Healts*, being gone round, they entred into a Grand Committee about the Affairs of the Nation. What, in the Name of Wonder (*says one of them*), can the Parliament mean by these Taxes? Do they intend to make us all Beggars? The whole Value of the Lands of *England*, if to be purchased, does not exceed above Six or Eight Millions, and Two Millions of that same they have already disposed of, and are giving away the rest as fast as they can. Our Trade is lost at Sea, and we are harras'd by Taxes by Land, to maintain an Army upon a Foreign Continent, and a Fleet at Sea, who neither fight—We have made a very blessed Exchange (*says a Second*), for a Tame, Quiet, Peaceable King, to chuse a Fighting, Blustering Prince, who not content to live Quietly himself, will not let his Neighbours be quiet neither: What have we to do with the Quarrel of the *Spaniards*? One would think we should not have forgot the Friendly Visit they intended us in the Year 88. that we must have so many *Englishmen* knockt o' the head, to keep up the Grandeur of the *House of Austria*, and Glory of the *Spanish Mustachio's*--- Here's a Book (*crys a Third*) call'd, *The Present Settlement Vindicated*--- A Settlement! ha! ha! ha! Yes, we are blessedly settled; our Pious and Learned Bishops, and some Hundreds of the Clergy ejected from their Dignities and Livings, and drove to Want and Misery, because

cause they will not wrong their Consciences, to make room for a Pack of Fellows, who will swear and forswear at pleasure ; for did the *Great Mogul* Conquer *England*, no doubt but they would take the Swear to him, and conform to his Faith----You are in the right of it, Sir, (*replied a Parson*) these are Times wherein the *Righteous* must expect *Persecution* : I would no more swallow the Oaths to this Present Government, than I would turn *Musselman*, or be circumcis'd : I preach sometimes amongst the Friends to *K. W. and Q. M.* (as they call 'em) but I pray in general for the *King and Queen*, and preach up the Old True Apostolick Doctrine of Obedience to the Higher Powers ; and let others pray how they please, I always make the Fifth Commandment a part of my Litaney. I am clearly of my Brothers Mind (*replied a Second Son of the Church*) ; for though I have taken the Oaths, yet I question not but you all believe me to be of another Stamp. I was unwilling, I must confess, to leave a good Benefice of 400 *l.* a Year, out of Complaisance to a Ceremony ; I took the Oaths as people do Pills, swallow'd 'em whole : Had I gone about to chew 'em, I should have found 'em bitter ; I winkt hard, not much considering what I was doing, and so got 'em down---'Tis true, they now and then rumble in my Stomach, but then I take a little *Church-Opium*, and all's quiet again. If I am askt, in what Sence I took 'em ? I answer, in my own Sence : I am to go to such a place on Foot ; 'tis my own Legs must carry me thither ; I would fain know, how I should go otherwise. Very Logically determin'd (*answers a third of the same Function*) : Though I must own my self no Friend to this Government, for I think it usurpt and Arbitrary, yet a good fat Living is not so easily parted with

as some imagine. If I will not take the Oaths, I am threatened to be turned out. If I leave it, there are some ready, *flap dash*, to receive it. No, no, keep thy Living, say I, and let the Government look to itself. This puts me in mind of a Story, not very impertinent to this purpose: A Gentleman having been Two or Three Days upon the Ramble, at length coming home, and being in Bed with his Wife, would fain have been at something that she was unwilling to; and instead of complying, fell to chiding him for his being abroad so long. *Well*, says he, *if you will not, call up Sarah* (his Wife's Chambermaid.) Upon that she yielded presently. This made the Company laugh a little, which was quickly over, and the old fit of Grumbling seized 'em again. At the upper end of the Table sat a Couple of *Officers*, one indeed very Nobly Equipt, and as fine as the *Sempstress*, *Taylor* and *Perwig-maker*, could Righ him; the other in a Blue Coat, a little Thread-bare, his Stockings out at Elbows, and a Greasie Cordebec upon his Head, with his other Accoutrements proportionable; and both of 'em in a very warm Dispute about the Oaths; Pardon me, Sir, (*says the Abdicated Officer to the other*) if I think your Conduct commendable; I was offered a Captain's Commission t'other Day; but I would have as soon accepted of the Hangman's Place; My honest *Loyal Rags* will keep me as warm as your Embroidered Coat. No Reflections, Sir, I beseech you (*says the other*); Men of yours and my Profession, seldom stand upon the Niceties of Conscience; we never examine the Cause, so the Pay be but good: I was a Younger Brother, of no Contemptible Family, by the Mediation of some Friends at Court, I got a Commission almost for a Trifle; Would you have me resign  
up



up that, and starve at large, only to please a Humour? We Men of Fortune must, like the Miller, know how to grind which way soever the Wind sits. But tho, Sir, I dissemble with the World, I will be plain and open with you: I do not like this Government; and 'tis enough to make a Man's Blood boyl to a Fever, to see a parcel of *Dutch, French, Brandenburgers, Danes and Germans*, have the Chiefest Posts of Honour in the Army, while brave *English Spirits* are forced to act within the Narrow Limits of a Small Commission. This (if any thing except the want of Pay) would make Officers mutiny---You are in the right of it, Sir, (*replied the other*) and before I'd obey e're a *Jack Frenchman*, or *Flanderkin* of 'em all, I'd seek my Bread upon the Highway. But I hear you gain'd a Great Victory last Summer, and *Ireland* is reduc'd, and there will be no more knocking out of Brains there, except now and then a poor straggling *Rapparee*: And who has got the Honour of the Action, but a *German*, forsooth, who Trail'd a Pike but the other Day in *Flanders*. *Ireland* is reduced indeed, but 'tis to Beggery and Want; witness the desolated Towns, and unpeopled Villages: So the *Goths* and *Vandals* formerly reduc'd *Italy*, and the *Sweedish Forces* under *Gustavus Adolphus*, the greatest part of *Germany*, when they had made those Countries heaps of Ruin and Desolation. If these are the Effects of your blessed Revolution, Recommend me to the Clemency of the *Spaniards*, when they conquer'd *America*---I smile to think how the *King* (as you call him) prides himself in being called the Head of the Confederates, who, excepting the *Emperour* and the *King of Spain* (and they too not over Rich) are as pitiful Princes as the World ever saw, both as to Power and Policy; the High Sheriff of a County in *England*, lives in greater Port, for the Time

being, than any of them ; And these pretty Gentlemen (if I may call 'em so) pretend to pull down the Greatest and most Absolute *Monarch* in the World : They have divided *France* already in their *Imaginations*, as 'tis said the *Irish* did *England* lately ; this *Prince* to have such a *Province*, this *Elector* such a *Principality*, and this *Duke* such a *Country* ; but they are all equally mistaken, and I make no doubt, they have undertaken a Work will burn their fingers at last. 'Tis too true what you say, Sir, (*speaks another of the Company*) the *French King* is not so easily pull'd down as some people imagine ; we may undervalue an Enemy as we please ; as our Countrymen of Old, when they came home from fighting with the *Saracens*, and were beaten by them, they pictur'd them with huge big terrible Faces, (as we still see the Sign of the *Saracens* Head is) when, in troth, they were like other Men ; but this they did to save their Credits. Well, were he as some people report he is, the greatest Tyrant breathing ; I shall ever have an Honourable Esteem for him, by reason of that Friendship he afforded K. J. when he was forced to fly for shelter from the Rage of his Rebellious Subjects ; for my part (*rejoyns a Second*), were I abroad in Foreign Parts, I would no more own my self to be an *Englishman*, than a *Jesuit* in *Sweedland* would make open profession of what he is. An *Englishman* ! the very *Proteus* of Mankind, whose Name is become Odious abroad, as his Actions have made him infamous at home. Nay, what has this very Generation done ? The Father's Head they cut off at his Palace Gate, Exil'd his Two Sons ; when the Whim took 'em in the Pate, call'd 'em back again, Crown'd the Eldest with great Magnificence, but were never easie under him, still plotting and contriving against him ; and to his Brother (nearly upon the account  
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of his Religion) they conceiv'd so implacable a Hatred, even while K. C. was living, that when it pleas'd *Almighty God* to call him hence, and K. J. seated on the Throne, tho he took all the Methods in the World to oblige 'em, by Liberty of Conscience, and other means; yet they were resolv'd he should not Reign long, and therefore with loud Clamours to the P. and P. of O. complain, Their Religion, Property, Laws, and every thing Sacred in Government, was undermining; invl'te in a Foreign Power, and leave him, like base Cowards and Rebels, in his greatest Necessities----These are sad Truths (*contin'd a Third*), but every body don't believe 'em. If the Fanatics are so impudent as to justify the Murther of K. C. the First, we have of the *Church of England* (as they call themselves) some Thousands who will Vindicate the Revolution: But we are a People determin'd to Destruction, and we are resolv'd we will be undone; Our Nobility discontented, our Clergy (some of them, I mean) Time-Servers, and the Commonalty a Pack of Mad People; our Trade lost, Taxes increas'd, the Nation impoverish'd, and all the Symptoms of a Ruined Kingdom, may Heaven avert these impending Judgments; but till by Joint Consent, we call the K. home again, and by that means make some Attonement for our Offences, I know nothing less than final Ruin can attend us.

These, I remember were the Chief Topicks of their Discourse; nor did there want some very scurrilous Reflections upon the K. and Q. the *Parliament* and Clergy. On the sudden a *New Health* was propos'd, which being agreed to, each Man charging his Brimmer, kneel'd down, and the Master of the Ceremonies aloud cry'd, *Confusion to the King's Enemies*; After which, they all drank together, and threw the Glasses over their Heads,

with a *So let them perish who wish the King harm.* They were scarcely warm in their Seats, and about to begin a New Discourse, but a Person enters the Room, whose very Aspect struck one with Veneration; he was tall and graceful, his Eyes full of Vigour, a Majestick Gravity appear'd in his Countenance, the Hair of his Head and Beard were as white as the driven Snow, the latter of which reacht to his Middle; his Habit was a Gown of a Purple Colour, and a Staff in his hand, which he wore more for Ornament than Necessity: The Company were struck dumb by his appearance, and one might visibly read the surprise they were in, by their Hands and Eyes, which were erected with Admiration; after a very little Pause, and making a Reverence to the Company, he spake as followeth:

*Gentlemen*, for so you are, or at least, seem to be; you may justly wonder at my bold intrusion, and that unlookt and unsent for, I should presume to appear, even to your disturbance, and the interruption of that Mirth you have so long enjoy'd; but when you know my Character and Office, you will find little Reason to accuse me of Rudeness, or want of Breeding: Know then I am the *Genius of England*, its Guardian-Angel, or Overseer, which have ever since its first Original, appear'd in its Defence against all the Wars, Tumults, Invasions, and Popular Insurrections, which have happened since it had a Being. Tho you saw me make my Entrance just now, I have really been present all the while in this Meeting, and a Thousand more of the like Nature: Your Discourses displeas'd me to that degree, that I was forced to borrow the Venerable Shape and Dress you see me in, that I might appear less formidable: My Age commands Respect, and I hope my Discourse may engage your Attention: I am  
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perswaded, it is one of the most difficult things in the world, to make a man sensible he wants Discretion, who thinks himself wise enough already: There are some Principles which men have suckt in, which all the Dint of Reason and Argument can never get from them; Methinks I see you already intrenching your selves within your little Politicks, and Fallacious Sophisms of Argument, from whence I shall not fright you by any Bombs of Excommunication, or Thunder of Words, but argue with you with that plainness of Expression which becomes Truth itself, and the Cause I have espoused. *Gentlemen*, I think you are *Englishmen*, and *Protestants* too, and I know not one perfect *Roman Catholick* amongst you; you pretend too, to be Lovers of your Country, and I could wish you did not forfeit that Character by your unreasonable murmurings. I only appeal to the Breasts of you all, if you did not think some proceedings in the late Reign to be most intolerable Usurpations upon the Subject? if you your selves were not uneasy under several proceedings at Court? If you say, you were not, and that such Actions did not concern your private Fortunes, where was your concern for the publick good? If you were sensible, either you wisht those Grievances redrest, or you did not: if you did not wish them redrest, it proceeded from a pusillanimity of Temper, or you were so possest with the Bigottry of Passive Obedience, that thinking the King could do no wrong, you thought tame Submission all the Duty on your part. If you did think Matters ought to be rectified, it was to be done either by lawful or unlawful means; the latter I know you utterly abhor'd, and the only lawful means you could think of, were Prayers and Tears. But when a Remedy was in view, when the Noise of the *Princes* Intentions were spread abroad, did not some of you inward-

ly rejoice at the bare Prospect of such a Deliverance? When he was landed, who more forward than some of you to go over to him? Your *Loyalty* (now so much boasted of) was thought an out-of Fashion Vertue; Did not you often magnifie the Glory of the Attempt, and celebrate his Praises, for designing to deliver Three sinking Nations from impending Ruin? When the Battle, and no Battle was over at *Salisbury*, who more ready to Usher the Prince to Town than your selves? Was not his Health drank by you as religiously and devoutly as you have since drank your *Old Master's*? Upon the *Abdication* (a word sticks like a swallow'd Sponge in your stomachs) did not some of you joyn with the Votes of the Convention, in proclaiming the P. and P. of O. K. and Q. of England, &c. and seem'd to acquiesce with the proceedings of the Parliament afterward? Your now so much doted on King was wholly out of your thoughts, and you seem'd as easie under the Government, as you now are unquiet; how comes the Scene to be so suddenly chang'd? Is the signal Deliverance, wherein even Atheists themselves have acknowledged a Conduct of a Providence, so soon forgot? Are you no sooner at Liberty, but you long for your Fetters again? Oh ye unthinking Creatures, what can occasion sudden change of Temper? If you tell me you are no ways altered, but still the same; That you ever Lov'd K. J. Love him still a *God's Name*; but let not that preposterous pity of yours overwhelm your Country in Blood and Ruin. You value yourselves highly upon *Loyalty*; a word you very little understand, and seem by your wishes for the Restauration and Return of your Master, to be a kind of Men, called formerly *Cavaliers*; but your case is widely different from theirs; they liv'd under a Government Usurpt and Tyrannical, a Government so Absolute  
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and Arbitrary that it did what it pleas'd, dispos'd of Mens Lives and Fortunes at its ill-got Discretion: You cannot, without the highest Injustice, fix any of those Characters upon this Government, and yet you daily Traduce it; theirs was a struggle for Freedom, and yours a quarrelling with Liberty; They, like the People of *Athens*, liv'd under a Thousand Tyrants; you have but one *Lord and Lady*, and yet their mild Government you refuse to Obey; many of them Liv'd to see the success of their Wishes, and Peace and Liberty Restor'd again; but if Heaven, should, for the Nations Scourge, permit you to Enjoy your Expectations, a quite different prospect would arise; a prospect so dismal in view, that my apprehension staggers under the very thoughts of it: What can you hope for then which you do not now Enjoy? Your Religion, a word you value your selves upon, is Sacred to you, by all the sacred Ties which Sovereignty can give; and pray who goes about to Invade your Properties? Are there any *Melins Inquirendum's* made into your Estates? But the mighty cry, is, the *Taxes*, the *Taxes*, we shall be ruin'd by *Assessments* and *Quarterly Polls*, sounds which make great Noise in the Country; but are these Impositions (as you sometimes call 'em) laid upon you without your own consent? Does the single Command of a King enjoin them? Or are they not done by your Representatives in Parliament? And I hope you have not such slight Opinion of their Conduct, as to censure their Prudence; that August Assembly is truly sensible of the Exigence of Affairs, and that we are now struggling for the Liberty of *Europe*; and not to be Liberal upon such occasions, were to own our selves willing to be Slaves: How contentedly in the late Reign you could part with your Mony, tho' you knew it was the Price

Price of Luxury and Excess, and now you grumble to part with it, when it is to serve the original property of the Nation : Do you not Visibly see it Employ'd for the Building of Ships, the Payment of Fleets and Armies, and other Defences necessary for the Publick ? If some base Practises have been Discovered in the disposal of the Sums you give, is the King accountable for the knavery of his Ministers ? He designs nothing (how little soever your thoughts may be of him) but the Glory of *England*, and the Liberty of *Europe* ; and 'tis enough to make your Ingratitude blush (if that be possible) to consider what Just and Honourable Deference and Respect all Foreign Princes abroad allow him (the *French King* only Excepted ; who nevertheless owns him a brave and generous Enemy) the *Emperour*, *King of Spain*, with the *Italian* and *German Princes*, think all the Honour they can show him, infinitely below his Worth and Merit, and laying aside the differences of Perswasion, have made him the General of all their Forces : The *Religious* themselves of both Sexes, in those Countries, tho they think him a *Hugonot*, yet never mention his Name but with gratitude and wonder, and shall a few discontented *English* Spirits think to Eclipse his Fame ? Has he not done all that was ever expected from a brave Commander ? Was any thing more gallant than his Action at the *Boyn* ? By which single Battle he Determin'd the Fate of *Ireland*, which, tho reduced to Want and Beggary, as one of you very Maliciously hinted, may lay its Miseries at the Door of Ignorance and Superstition, but, *Phoenix like*, it is reviving out of its Ashes, and will, within a few peaceful Years, be a flourishing Kingdom again. Has not his Majesty, for the good of *Europe*, laid aside all the Softness and Luxury, the common attendants of a Crown, to appear in Arms ? And shall all this

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deserve no other Name than a Rambling Ambition? But the Subject is vastly too great for my thoughts; and indeed he needs none of my weak Praises, being as far above what Elquence it self can say of him, as his Merits have rais'd him beyond the weak Efforts of Detraction--You mightily complain of the Taxes, as such insufferable burthens--- Pray look abroad, and see the Extortions Crown'd Heads and States make use of to raise Funds to carry on their Wars or Ambition; Go no farther than *France*, (your beloved Country) and see what Violence and Rapine is used to fleece the Subject, what Creation of new Offices, too Numerous before; what vast Sums paid to make an Office Hereditary, which is only held by the King's Pleasure; for he who could break the *Diet of Nants*, with other publick Records of Trust, cannot be supposed to value a private Contract, when the Urgency of his Affairs require him to break it; how are his great Counsellors forced to wrack their Inventions, how to find Projects for to raise Money? Nay, their holy Mother the Church is hardly spar'd, but robb'd of some of her Ornaments, to contribute to the charge of a War, not so much as pretended to be carried on upon the account of Religion. But you will tell me, the absolute Necessity of their Affairs require it; and pray you, Grave Sir, are ours less necessitous? The Quarrel between *France* and us is not now about the re-instating *K. J.* 'tis the Liberty of *Europe* is the Dispute; we must either be all Freemen or Slaves: and who would not part with a small Sum to have his *All* secure. But now I am speaking of *France*, I cannot but with Wonder and Admiration see the Fondness some of you have exprest for that Tyrannical *Monarch*, magnifying his Conduct, and extolling his Victories; How many Wagers were laid about *Mons* last year, that it would be in his hands by such a time, which when by Treachery and Cowardise it was surrendred, what Rejoicings and Feastings amongst you, as if some great Deliverance were accomplisht. You pretend to be Men of Conscience and Justice; in the Name of Wonder, where lies either of them in such Proceedings? What

have the People of *Savoy* and *Piedmont* to do in your Quarrel? wherein have they so signally disoblig'd you, that you could willingly be content to see their Cities on fire, and Country depopulated, that K. J. by these means come again to his Throne; This is Conscience and Justice with a Witness: I wonder what the *French King* has done for you, that you should with such Eagerness espouse his Cause; has he lately sent any of you the Badge of the *Order of St. Michael*, as a Mark of his distinguishing Favour? or do you receive so many *Louis D'or's* per month by some private hands? Methinks your Looks seem to tell me you scorn such little Practices; I could wish you as equally scorn'd to espouse an Interest which has ever been fatal to those who embrac'd it: You cannot surely be so half-witted, to think the Friendship he has shown to K. J. was purely the Effect of Generosity? No, no, *France* is too cunning a Banker to afford such Favours, as Men and Money, without considerable Interest, which must be paid over and over, whenever our Divisions make us ripe for Destruction. But this, I know, you are ready to say, is all stuff and Blunter: I wish you may find it so whenever it comes to the fatal Test. But if from a General Discourse, I may descend to a more particular; To you, *Gentlemen*, in *Holy Orders*, I speak, who, tho some of you have taken the Oaths, and others not, yet in being Enemies to the Government, you jointly agree: For you who have not taken the Oaths, upon a meer Scruple of Conscience, I pity you, and could wish you had laid aside Partiality and Prejudice, when you consider'd the Nature of an Oath, before you absolutely re'su'd it. I do not speak this, to reflect on any of the Grave Doctors, and those of the highest Forme in the Church, who have renounc'd their Sees and Livings, out of the Respect to their Conscience, a practice, I fear, has too much influenc'd the Inferior Clergy, who pinn'd both their Faith and Livings upon the Sleeves of their great Masters; yet I must presume to think, that there are Persons of no less Learning and Piety, who have taken the Oaths, and live sub-  
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missively under the Government ; and yet these persons Conferences were perhaps as well inform'd as the others, and understood the Doctrines and Practices of the *Church of England* full as well as they. As for those who have taken the Oaths, and yet secretly wish ill to the Government, I know not what to think of 'em ; they are such Amphibious Animals as never were heard of, and must, were they known, be equally hated by both Parties, because they are true to neither. What! pray for the *King and Queen*, and yet curse them inwardly in their hearts! acknowledge them in their publick Devotions, for their lawful Sovereigns, and yet think them Usurpers: Oh egregious Hypocrites, can ye think to baunter *God Almighty* by such *Equivocations* ? Nor are you less Hypocrites, you of another Cloath, who take up Commissions, with a pretence to fight the Battles of *W. and M.* when your hearts are of a quite contrary Temper, and could gladly see a *French Power* trample down all Law, Justice and Right ; how happens those of your Profession to pretend so much to Conscience ? I thought a *Soldiers Religion* had been his *Bottle* and his *Mistress*, for either of which he would venture his Dearest Blood ; but a Soldier to talk of Conscience, and the Goodness of his Cause, is nauseous enough. You quarrel, that his *Majesty* has preferr'd *French, Germans, &c.* before you ; and tho I would not be thought to lessen your Worth, yet I must tell you, his *Majesty* is a great Judge of Merit : Commissions and Preferments in the Army, now are not got as formerly, by *Smock-Simony*, or the highest Bribes ; 'tis he who is the Gallant Man is justly preferr'd ; and Great Souls, tho they may have a commendable Emulation of another's Vertues, yet they never envied his Preferment : Nor do the *English*, after all your Complaints, want the Honours due to Courage and Conduct ; you cannot be ignorant, how many in the Army rais'd themselves by their own Worth and Personal Merit ; therefore those Complaints are groundless : I wonder what delight you take in making your selves uneasy ; did Men ever court the occasions of Discontent ? The Government resolves you shall live

as happy as you please ; but you will not be so happy as you may. For shame, if you are Men, *Englishmen*, and *Protestants*, leave off these unaccountable Murmurs, which are a kind of *Gangreen* in the Mind, and spreads the more you stir it, by Reflection, just like Men in Fevers ; you think by shifting the Bed, to remove the Pain ; but you still drag your Misfortunes after you. If you cannot live so happily as you would, live as contentedly as you can : Let not your little Discontents swell your thoughts so high, as to be Disturbers of the Publick Peace : But that Advice I need not give you, very few, if any of you, being willing to venture your Necks for the Cause you would seem to maintain. I have given you this friendly Visit, in order to your Reformation, and affirm it, upon my own knowledge, you may be happy if you will : If you are not, 'tis wholly your own fault. I have now told you my thoughts in mild and gentle Terms ; but if you still persist in your murmuring Strains, at my next Visitation my Words shall be cloth'd with Thunder.

At the Conclusion of this Period he vanished, and a Consort of invisible Musick in the Air, abated somewhat of the Horror which Men generally conceive upon the View of Apparitions ; But after all, they were sufficiently astonished, and express'd as much by their Looks and Gestures. I was about to take my leave of the Company, when a more than ordinary Noise at my Chamber Door, awak'd me from my agreeable Dream, and brought me the wel om News, That I was, amongst many others, to be exchange'd for some *French Prisoners*, brought from *Plymouth*. The News, tho very acceptable, surpriz'd me sufficiently, which, together with Reflections on what I had heard and seen in my sleep, made a more than ordinary Commotion in my Thoughts ; but having taken 2 or 3 turns in the Room, my Mind came to an Evenness of Temper, and devoutly on my Knees thanking Heaven for this unexpected Deliverance, I went on board, and with a merry Gale, in a few Days arriv'd in my dear Native Country of *England*.

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